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COMMERCE FOR ITA/MAC/OIPR CASSIE PETERS

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SUBJECT: PORTUGAL'S 2007 SPECIAL 301 RESPONSE

REF: STATE 07944

¶1. (SBU) Post recommends that Portugal remain off the 2007 Special 301 Watch List. Overall, intellectual property rights (IPR) protection in Portugal is good and IPR legislation is consistent with WTO rules, EU directives, and the trade-related intellectual property (TRIPS) provisions of GATT. In 2006, post received few IPR complaints from U.S. businesses. Complaints were often focused on Portugal's slow judicial process and bureaucratic defects in the patent verification and granting process.

¶2. (SBU) In an effort to educate targeted groups about the economic benefits of protecting IPR, the Embassy in cooperation with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), and the Institute of Applied Science and Technology (ICAT), will host two IPR programs on March 19 and 20, 2007. The Embassy, the USPTO and INPI foresee ongoing cooperation and future events on the importance of protecting IPR throughout the year.  
Hoffman